



# News Release

**ORANGE COUNTY/INLAND  
EMPIRE DISTRICT OFFICE**

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## **City of Anaheim Economic Development Team to Receive Community Excellence City Award from SBA**

*The team is committed to opening doors for business by streamlining processes and reducing red tape*

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office has selected the City of Anaheim Economic Development Team to be honored with the 2019 Community Excellence City Award. This award recognizes the creation of an environment conducive to business growth, business retention, and significant support for economic development and job growth.

The Economic Development Team was formed in 2017 as a result of the leadership and support of the Anaheim City Council and direct feedback from the Anaheim business community. The effort was developed and implemented by the city's economic development manager, Jessica Gonzales. Recognizing that government processes can slow down a business's ability to open doors or expand operations, Gonzales worked closely with cross-departmental staff on strategies to streamline processes, find incentives, regulatory relief measures, and provide a one-stop business resource. The team is comprised of Economic Development, Planning and Building, Workforce Development, and Anaheim Public Utilities department representatives. This dynamic team brings together the expertise of various departments in which a business regularly interacts to provide a personalized approach in identifying time and cost savings, incentives, as well as streamlined permit and plan check processes.

The cross-functionality of the Anaheim Economic Development Team provides the tools and resources businesses need to eliminate the barriers to economic growth and create private sector jobs. The team assists with locating commercial space to meet specific site criteria; permit assistance to help navigate approvals for obtaining business licenses, tenant improvements, renovations, and equipment installation; utility rebates and incentives to reduce operational costs; workforce development with hiring and training programs including on-the-job training wage reimbursement funds; provides business counseling and seminars with SBA's resource partner Orange County SCORE; collaborates with the Small Business Development Center Network to provide small business training; and maintains a solid partnership with the SBA district office. This model proved so successful, the Anaheim Economic Development Team was awarded the Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet business retention and expansion award by the Orange County Business Council in 2018.

Anaheim is a major contributor to Orange County's economy with over 350,000 residents, 20,000 businesses, and 30 million annual visitors. By proactively addressing the needs of Anaheim's diverse industries, Anaheim's Economic Development Team is committed to removing barriers to doing business in their city. By reinforcing Anaheim as a global business destination and the continued strengthening of business community partnerships, Anaheim's Economic Development Team is shaping programs and creating pathways for continued economic growth and reinforcing Anaheim's business-friendly climate.

Jessica Gonzales and the City of Anaheim Economic Development Team will be recognized and receive their award for the 2019 Community Excellence City Award at the local Small Business Week Awards program to be held Friday, June 7 from 10:30 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. For more information on the event email [events@ochcc.com](mailto:events@ochcc.com) or call (949) 891-1464.

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### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

### **About the Orange County / Inland Empire District Office**

The Orange County / Inland Empire District Office, under the leadership and vision of J. Adalberto Quijada, District Director, is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services in the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Located in Santa Ana near John Wayne Airport, the office and its staff facilitate understanding and access to SBA loan programs; coordinate and conduct hundreds of training sessions and special events annually such as matchmaking forums and loan workshops; and manage a portfolio of nearly 100 businesses enrolled in the agency's 8(a) business development program.